

*Dr. John Jeffries*

12.5.116.

No.

~~12.6.15.~~ ~~162.85~~

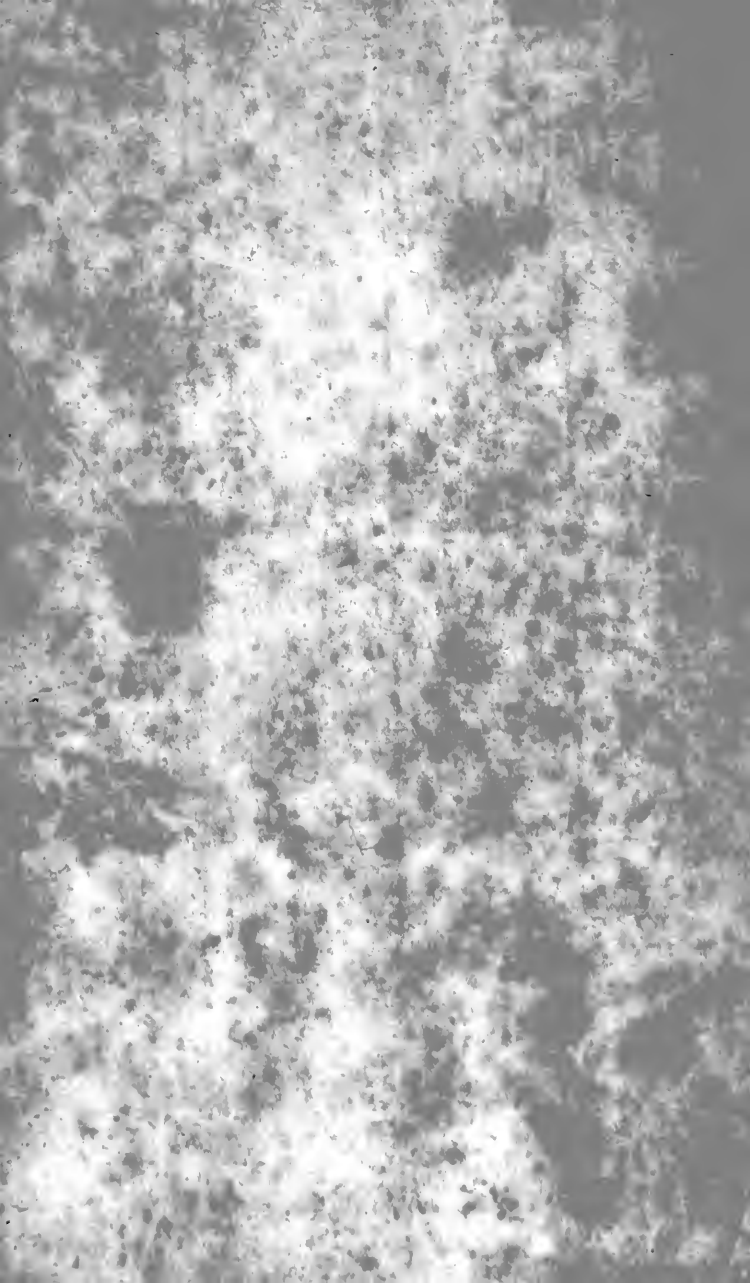
**BOSTON  
MEDICAL LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION,  
19 BOYLSTON PLACE,**

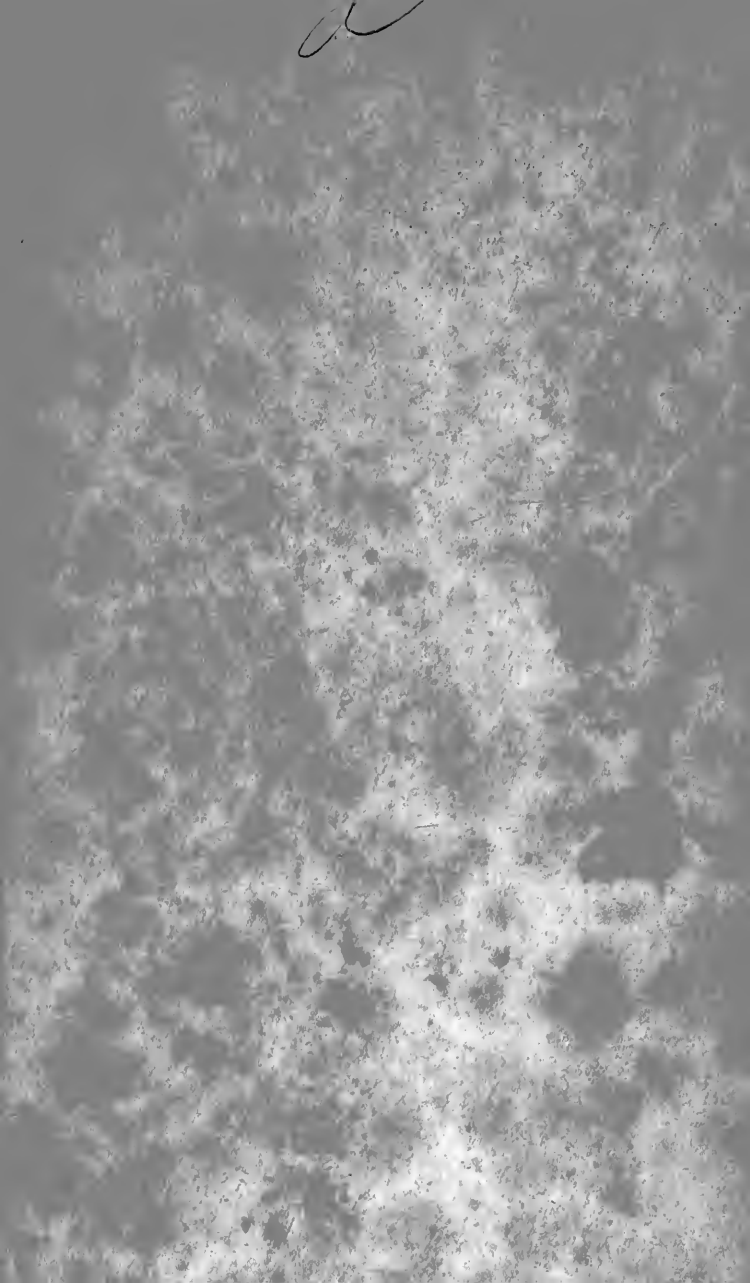
Received

Nov. 20. 1884.

By Gift of

Harv. Med. Sch.









*From the Author*



PRACTICAL  
OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE CURE OF  
HECTIC AND SLOW FEVERS,  
AND THE  
PULMONARY CONSUMPTION:  
TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
A METHOD OF TREATING  
SEVERAL KINDS OF  
INTERNAL HEMORRHAGES.

---

By MOSES GRIFFITH, M.D.  
OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LONDON.

---

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR BENJAMIN WHITE,  
AT HORACE'S HEAD, IN FLEET-STREET.

---

M.DCC.LXXVI.

12  
N  
116



---

---

## P R E F A C E.

*THE fatal effects of hectic and slow fevers are so well known, and have been so often lamented, that an attempt to throw some new lights on the practice of physic, with respect to the proper treatment of those disorders, will, I hope, need no apology.*

*I have for many years practised, with great success, a method of treating hectic and slow fevers—both of the low kind, inclining to the nervous, and of the inflammatory, which attends the pulmonary consumption—different from that which has*

*been followed by physicians, or taught in books. This I have intended for some time to lay before the public; but a series of ill health has prevented me: and, though I am now little qualified for the business of writing, yet I am so convinced of the great efficacy of the medicines I am about to propose, that I cannot leave the world, without doing all in my power to bring them into a more general use. I shall, therefore, after having described them, and mentioned the different diseases to which they have been applied, produce a number of plain facts, in confirmation of what I have advanced.*

*I am not ignorant, that something, like the first formula, has been used by some physicians, in the cure of intermittents, where either the bark has failed, or*  
*some*

*some particular symptom or circumstance has forbidden its use. But the various combinations of these medicines in the different formulæ of them, and the great number and variety of cases I have successfully applied them to, must, I think, be acknowledged to be new, and will, I hope, be not unworthy of the public attention.*

*Since I have retired hither, (now above eight years) I have readily given advice to the poor; who, being much exposed to injuries from the weather, fatigue, and other circumstances; are more particularly subject to colds; which, by neglect, often degenerate into the slow hectic, attended with a hard and dry cough, and many alarming symptoms. I have, by this means, had an opportunity of ascertaining the virtues and*  
*uses*

*uses of these medicines, in a great variety of instances.*

*I am well aware, that many very ingenious and worthy persons, who have early imbibed strong notions of the heating nature of steel, and its preparations, will be apt to condemn the practice here recommended. But the case, which I shall add as an appendix to these observations, will, I hope, tend to remove their prejudices on this subject, especially with regard to that particular preparation of steel, which so frequently occurs in the following pages.*

*Others, perhaps, from reasoning upon chemical principles, on the action of the two salts, one upon another, may suppose that the salt of steel is so far neutralized by the alkaline salt (which*  
*is*

*is joined to it in the medicine) as to precipitate an ochre of no efficacy. But I cannot think, that this reasoning is by any means conclusive, or can determine the effects of a medicine, when taken into the body; where, in mixing with the juices of the stomach and intestines, it may undergo an alteration, which no analysis, out of the body, can ascertain.*

*After all, as it is generally acknowledged, that, in matters of this kind, experience is a surer guide than theory and speculative reasoning, I should hope, that a fair trial of the medicines may effectually remove any prejudices against them.*

*With regard to the treatise upon hemorrhages, since I am not aware of any objection that can be made to the method*

*thod of cure which is there recommended, I shall not trouble the reader with any previous remarks on that subject.*

*The learned and ingenuous of the profession will candidly overlook any defects or inaccuracies, that may occur in the following treatises, which were drawn up in an advanced age, and under the disadvantages of bad health and spirits; without any view to fame or interest, but solely from a desire of adding my mite towards the improvement of medicine, and the good of mankind. If these my best endeavours shall be, in any degree, subservient to the ends proposed, I shall have my reward.*

COLCHESTER,  
September 16th, 1776.

PRACTI-



---

---

**PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS**  
ON THE CURE OF  
**HECTIC AND SLOW FEVERS,**  
AND THE  
**PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.**

**T**HE causes and symptoms of  
hectic and slow fevers, which  
are extremely various and complicated,  
have been so accurately described  
by several medical writers, that a recital  
of them here would be unnecessary.  
I shall therefore proceed to lay  
before the reader, in the clearest and  
most concise manner I am able, what

B

I have

I have found most beneficial in the cure of those disorders.

In hectic fevers, not attended with any great degree of heat and thirst, and which do not shew manifest signs of inflammation, I have long used the following medicine :

℞ *Myrrhæ drachmam unam,*  
*Solve terendo in mortario cum*  
*Aquæ alexeteriæ simplicis unciis sex*  
*cum semisse,*  
 — *cujuslibet spirituosæ drachmis*  
*sex, vel unciâ unâ ;*  
*Dein adde \**  
*Salis absinthii drachmam dimidiam,*  
*Salis*

\* Though I have always ordered the medicine to be made up in this manner, yet I find by a late enquiry, that it has likewise been made

*Salis martis grana duodecim,  
Syrupi simplicis drachmas duas.*

made up sometimes—by rubbing the salt of wormwood with the myrrh, and adding the waters, and then the salt of steel; and sometimes—by first rubbing the myrrh fine with the salt of wormwood, then adding the salt of steel, and after rubbing them a little together, quickly pouring in the waters.

I have not been sensible of any difference in the effect, in whichever of the three ways the medicine was made up. Yet, upon carefully comparing together the several compositions, that, in which the salt of wormwood was first rubbed with the myrrh, the waters then added, and the salt of steel last of all, plainly appeared to me the most uniform mixture. It kept its colour much longer on standing; deposited a lighter sediment; and upon being shaken, united more easily than either of the other two; and it therefore may deserve the preference.

*Fiat mistura, in haustus quatuor  
distribuenda, quorum unum  
capiat mane, horâ quintâ post  
meridiem, et horâ decubitûs.*

This proportion of the simple and spirituous water will, with care, dissolve the myrrh entirely; which is a circumstance that should be attended to, since by that means the medicine will sit lighter on the stomach, and probably pass more readily into the blood. I have, indeed, lately found, that the solution may be made without any spirituous water, if at any time it should be thought too heating; though I am in doubt, whether it will agree so well with the stomach of patients in general.

The

The myrrh may gradually be increased to seventeen or eighteen grains for a dose ; the salt of wormwood to ten, and the salt of steel to four. But it is always best to begin with small doses ; and as the symptoms abate, to give two draughts a-day, each containing eighteen or twenty grains of myrrh ; twelve of salt of wormwood ; and five or six of salt of steel ; which is the largest dose I have given. Although this medicine may, at first sight, appear to be nauseous, yet I have scarce ever found it rejected by the stomach, or exciting any kind of disturbance in the habit afterwards.

I have used the same method, with equal success, in slow fevers attended

with a low pulse, not much heat, loss of appetite, dejection of spirits, restless nights, and disturbed sleeps—Likewise, after long and severe fevers, that have broken down the constitution, and are often succeeded by lowness, want of appetite, and night-sweats—In the slow fever, which often attends a *chlorosis*—Also, after the blood has been drained, and the body weakened, by a large discharge of matter from a succession of abscesses—After large hemorrhages, which leave behind them a slow fever—In intermittents, where either the bark has failed, or may have been improper to be given—And also, where the intermittent has been removed, and a slow, lurking fever remains, attended with

weakness,

weakness, loss of appetite, dejection of spirits, and night-sweats—In short, I may venture to say, in almost every case, where the bark may seem to be indicated, but where either its disagreeing with the stomach, or some particular circumstance forbids its use.

In intermittents, I have generally given it four times a day, with rather a less dose of myrrh, and a larger of salt of wormwood; and I have always ordered chamemel-flower tea to be drunk with it, or between the doses.

In the cure of the *diabetes*, I shall give two remarkable cases, where it succeeded, after most of the common methods had been tried without success.

In the fever, which often accompanies that kind of madness which inclines to melancholy, and is attended with a restlessness and anxiety, I have reason to believe that this medicine will be of service, having seen an instance of this kind, where it gave much relief.—A woman, in this state, had not slept for a long time, and was very costive. I ordered her a purge, to empty the bowels; a large dose of opium, at night; and afterwards, this medicine. In a week's time she was so much recovered, as to give great hopes of a cure: but the cause of her madness remaining, and being poor, she was sent to St. Luke's Hospital. If those gentlemen of the profession, whose peculiar province it



is to attend mad patients, would give this medicine a fair trial, I should hope that they would, in many cases, find it beneficial.

It is sometimes doubtful, whether the fever is more of the inflammatory kind, or of the slow hectic. In that case, I generally began with this medicine; and if it did not answer, gave that with nitre, &c. to be mentioned hereafter. If, on the contrary, I had begun with the nitrous, and found it did not succeed, I then had recourse to the former. But I generally gave a gentle purge first, in order to cleanse the first passages, and prevent the medicine from running off by stool; unless the patient was much weakened, and the bowels were in good order.

In

In hot and costive habits, I gave a solution of manna and Glauber's salt, with a little spirituous tincture of rhubarb. But in case of a lax habit, and tender bowels, a draught with a drachm, or a drachm and a half of *magnesia alba*, and three or four drachms of the above-mentioned tincture. If there were any sickness or load on the stomach, I found it proper to give an emetic of ipecacuanha, in a morning.

In hectic, which are attended with a cough, and difficult expectoration, soft, oily, healing medicines, to be taken in small quantities, occasionally, will be very necessary. And if the cough is troublesome in the night, and prevents rest, forty, fifty, or  
 sixty

sixty drops of paregoric elixir may be given at bed-time in a glass of water ; (though I have not often found occasion for it) but if that should make the expectoration more difficult, a draught with oxymel of squills, oil of sweet almonds, and a sufficient quantity of paregoric elixir, or the like, according to the discretion of the physician, will generally obviate that inconvenience.

In order to illustrate, and confirm the truth of, what I have asserted, I shall now produce a variety of *cases*, which tend to shew the efficacy of this medicine in most of the disorders abovementioned.

A POOR WOMAN, of a thin and tender habit, had an immoderate  
flux

flux of the *menfes*, and, long after its being ftopt, continued very weak, faint, and low-fpirited, with unquiet fleeps, and a flow hectic fever. I ordered her this medicine; and, after fhe had taken about fixteen dofes of it, fhe became perfectly well.

A MAN, about twenty-five years of age, having had feveral fucceffive abceffes, was much reduced by the long and copious difcharge of matter from them, and had a remittent fever; which was entirely removed by this medicine, after he had taken large quantities of the bark, both in decoction and fubftance, without any fuccefs. He took about four grains of falt of fteel, ten of falt of wormwood, and

and from sixteen to eighteen of myrrh,  
for a dose.

A COOPER, of this town,  
brought his son to me, a young man  
about twenty. He was so weak, that  
he could scarce walk, was emaciated,  
and had a ghastly countenance, a  
quick pulse, a hot and dry skin, and  
a hard, dry, and hollow cough. I  
did not think it possible to do him any  
good; however, I prescribed for him  
the myrrh mixture abovementioned,  
nine doses, one dose to be taken in the  
morning, afternoon, and at night;  
the whole containing two drachms of  
myrrh, three scruples and a half of salt  
of wormwood, and thirty-six grains  
of salt of steel—and an oily emulsion  
for

for his cough, consisting of oil of sweet almonds, gum arabic dissolved in water, a little strong cinnamon water, and syrup of marsh-mallows ; a small spoonful to be taken occasionally.

As I heard no more from him, I concluded that he was dead ; but about ten or eleven weeks after, his father came, by the desire of his son, to tell me he was well, and to thank me. I afterwards enquired about him of the apothecary, who told me, that the patient, after having taken several bottles of the myrrh mixture, became quite well : but that upon his going into Mersey-island, to work among the oysters, in November, his fever had returned : he had therefore

fore sent to him for a few bottles more, which had perfectly recovered him.

*N. B.* The proportion of the myrrh was rather less here than what I usually give; and had I seen this patient again, I should have encreased it to two drachms and a half, or perhaps more.

A YOUNG MAN, who was just recovered from a long and dangerous fever, and was able to walk about, continued weak and low, and had profuse night-sweats. I ordered him the myrrh mixture; of which he took only eight or nine doses; and was restored to good health.

Another

Another person came to me under the very same circumstances ; and was cured by the same medicine.

I WAS DESIRED to consult with another physician, since dead, on the case of a young lady of this town, constitutionally tender and delicate. She had been ill six weeks, and had laboured under the most violent hysteric disorders, which had brought her into an extreme degree of weakness. She had taken, during that time, all the usual medicines, without effect. She had scarce any sleep ; opiates hurried her exceedingly, without producing the desired end. All the medicines, of the fetid tribe, only encreased her disorder: the peruvian bark, and various things  
of



of the cordial kind, had proved ineffectual. She had profuse sweats, which lasted every day twelve hours at least. She voided a large quantity of pale urine; had great thirst and no appetite; and twice in the time, had violent spasmodic retchings; but was supported by weak broths, of which she drank very plentifully. Her pulse was quick and low, and her heat moderate. She was so low and weak, as to be near fainting after having answered me a few questions.

I proposed to give her the following draughts, which were accordingly ordered.

*R. Myrrhæ scrupulos duos cum semisse;*

*Solve terendo in mortario, cum*

C

*Aquæ*

*Aquæ Menthæ vulgaris simplicis*

——— *puræ singularum unciis duabus,*

——— *cinnamomi spirituosæ uncia dimidia ;*

*Dein adde*

*Salis absinthii grana viginti quatuor,*

——— *martis grana decem,*

*Syrupi simplicis drachmam unam.*

*Misce ; fiant haustus numero quatuor, quorum capiat ægrota unum sextâ quâque horâ.*

She found immediate relief from these draughts, and took them thus, for two days ; and then, one every eight hours, with a drachm of myrrh, half a drachm of salt of wormwood, and twelve grains of salt of steel, for  
four

four draughts. These she took between two and three weeks, and no other medicine whatsoever, till her complaints were all removed, except weakness. She drank asses milk within a few days after she began the draughts; and when she left them off, took a cold infusion of the bark to strengthen her stomach, continuing the asses milk till she was entirely recovered.

I ought perhaps to apologize for the following relation; yet, as it is so much to my purpose, I cannot forbear laying it before the reader.

A PERSON in a retired village, of undoubted veracity, to whom I had

communicated the use of this medicine for the purpose of relieving the sick poor in the neighbourhood, informed me it had, on many occasions, been of great service; and sent me the following account, as a remarkable proof of it.

“ A YOUNG LABOURING  
 “ MAN was seized in the autumn  
 “ with an ague, for which he took the  
 “ bark in large quantities, and other  
 “ medicines. They did not remove  
 “ the ague, but only lessened it; and  
 “ the fits came very irregularly. He  
 “ continued in this way till the mid-  
 “ dle of February, when I happened  
 “ to call, and found him so low and  
 “ weak, that he could scarce walk.  
 “ His

“ His mother told me, he had such  
 “ sweats in the night, that the drops  
 “ stood on his head and face, like  
 “ peas, and that she was obliged  
 “ to shift him. I bid her take  
 “ him up and dress him, as soon  
 “ as she found the sweats com-  
 “ ing on. I gave him the myrrh  
 “ draughts; three pints of which  
 “ quite cured him.” viz. about twen-  
 ty-four doses.

A GENTLEMAN of this place,  
 near sixty years of age, had for several  
 winters past been troubled with a  
 violent cough, which shook his whole  
 frame, and weakened him very much.  
 About the beginning of January  
 1775, he was seized with some of the

usual symptoms of a *diabetes*, which gradually encreasing, he had a flow fever, an intense and almost continual thirst, a constant dryness and clamminess in his mouth, with a white frothy spittle; and he voided a large quantity of urine, which smelt like violets, and tasted as if sweetened with sugar or honey; all which symptoms rendered him very faint and weak; and he became much emaciated. He took decoctions of the bark in large quantities, which seemed at first to relieve him; and he used for his common drink, Bristol water with port wine. He next took simple lime-water, with the tincture of the bark, and the tincture of cantharides.

Towards

Towards the latter end of February, I was consulted, together with Dr. Hoffack, an ingenious physician of this place. We ordered him those tinctures in Bristol water and port wine, and also alum whey; and afterwards, the bark in substance and *terra japonica*, with alum whey; but all without effect, for he daily grew weaker, and more emaciated. We then ordered him the following:

℞ *Myrrhæ drachmam unam,*  
*Solve terendo in mortario, cum*  
*Aquæ alexeteriæ simplicis unciis*  
*septem,*  
 — *Nucis moschatæ unciâ dimidiâ,*  
*Tincturæ corticis peruviani sim-*  
*plicis drachmis sex;*

*Dein adde*

*Salis absinthii scrupulos duos,*

*— martis grana sedecim,*

*Sacchari albi scrupulos duos. Misce.*

*Capiat ægrotus cochlearia quatuor  
ampla, manè, horâ quintâ post  
meridiem, & horâ decubitûs  
quotidiè.*

All his symptoms abated immediately on his taking this medicine, which he continued from the 18th of March to the 4th of April, when his principal complaints were all removed, except weakness, and rather too much urine, which might be occasioned by the parts not having recovered their tone. He therefore took about two tea spoonfuls of steel wine,  
and



and from twenty to thirty drops of acid elixir of vitriol in a glass of Bristol water, twice a-day; and next morning, a scruple of rhubarb fasting; and so alternately, the steel wine, and elixir one day, and the rhubarb the next, till he had used two ounces of the wine. He then took only a scruple of rhubarb every other morning for three weeks, when he became quite well, and still continues so.

The following case, though not falling under my own inspection, yet as it was treated in the manner here recommended, and comes from a person of unquestionable veracity, will, I hope, not be thought improper to be inserted.

A SUR-

A SURGEON of eminence, who lives several miles from hence, many years ago brought up to me, in London, a young man with a hectic fever and cough, for whom I prescribed the draughts with myrrh, salt of wormwood, and salt of steel, &c. On which occasion he became so well convinced of their good effects, that he has used them ever since with very great satisfaction.—Since I retired to this place, he told me, that by means of these draughts, with the addition of the simple tincture of the bark, he had cured a man of an obstinate *diabetes*, in which he had been attended, without success, by an able and experienced physician. Whilst I was writing these papers, I desired him to send me (that I might  
be

be exact in the doses) the receipt of the draughts which he gave him; and it was this—

℞ *Myrrhæ grana quatuordecim,*  
*Solve in aquæ puræ uncia una cum*  
*semisse,*

*Tincturæ corticis peruviani simpli-*  
*cis drachmis duabus.*

*Dein adde*

*Florum martialium grana duodecim,*  
*Elixiris vitrioli acidi guttas quin-*  
*decim,*

*Syrupi balsamici drachmam unam.*

*Misce; fiat haustus bis die sumendus.*

He took no other medicine than this; and became quite well. Some years after, he had a small return of his disorder;

der; but on taking the same draughts a few days, he got perfectly free from it.

If the hectic is occasioned by any considerable decay of some *viscus*, it is not probable that any medicine can effect a cure. Yet, even in this case, something should be attempted in order to mitigate the symptoms, and alleviate the complaints. And whatever will contribute most to retard the progress of the putridity, support the *vis vitæ*, and repress the febrile heat, will, of course, prove the best palliative.

I HAD a proof of the good effects of this medicine on such an unhappy occasion, in the instance of a lady, who having had a slow hectic fever  
near

near a year, had taken many medicines during that time, without any material benefit. But by the use of these draughts for about a month, all her complaints were relieved, and the disease was so far checked, as to give her and the family great hopes of a cure. However, it appeared evidently from the extreme slowness and gradual progress of the disease, that there had been, from the beginning, a decay of some of the *viscera*, which at length occasioned her death.

In hectics of the inflammatory kind, attended with great heat and thirst, flushings in the face, a hard pulse, hot and dry skin, a hard and dry cough, with difficult expectoration, I have found a happy effect from the following medicine,

cine, after having taken away some blood, and cleansed the first passages, as beforementioned :

*R. Myrrhæ drachmam unam,  
Solve terendo in mortario, cum  
Aquæ alexeteriæ simplicis unciiis sex  
cum semissè,*

*——— cujuslibet spirituosæ uncia  
unâ vel drachmis sex ;*

*Dein adde*

*Nitri purificati grana triginta duo,  
vel usque ad quadraginta,*

*Salis martis grana duodecim,*

*Syrupi simplicis drachmas duas.*

*Misce pro quatuor haustibus, quorum  
capiat ægrotus unum horâ un-  
decimâ matutinâ, quintâ post-  
meridianâ, & horâ decubitûs.*

I must not omit to mention in this place, that bleeding should be repeated according to the exigency of the symptoms, which must be left to the discretion of the physician.

If this medicine should happen to purge, sixteen or twenty grains of oyster-shell powder in each dose will generally prevent it; if not, two or three drops of the thebaic tincture may be added.

A YOUNG LADY at Hampstead, about eighteen years of age, after having recovered from a pleurisy, for which she had been several times bled, was seized with a burning hectic fever, attended with a hard and dry cough, difficult expectoration, flushings in  
the

the face, a hot and dry skin, and a quick pulse. I ordered her draughts, with fifteen grains of myrrh, four grains of salt of steel, and from eight to ten grains of nitre, to be taken twice or three times a-day, which, as she lived out of town, I left to the discretion of her apothecary; so that, perhaps, she might take but two draughts a-day; at least, at first. She used besides, whenever she coughed or wanted to expectorate, a small quantity of an oily, pectoral mixture, made agreeably acid. In about a week's time, I advised her to go into her native air, near sixty miles from town, and to drink asses milk with testaceous powders, continuing the use of the medicines, and after a time



to take but two draughts a-day, each containing a scruple of myrrh, ten grains of nitre, and five of salt of steel. On her journey into the country, she was taken very ill in the coach, when a tubercle or small abscess broke in her lungs, and she expectorated near a spoonful of matter mixt with blood, which gave her immediate ease. She continued her journey; and by the use of the medicines and asses milk, became perfectly well.

I think it may reasonably be inferred from the history just related, that one lobe of the lungs had been so far inflamed, that matter was actually forming before she began the medicines; and that the effect which they produced, was, that by lessening the heat

D

of

of the blood, and greatly bracing the vessels at the same time, they prevented the formation of more matter.

It may not be improper to add, that I advised this young lady (as I do in all such cases) to live, as much as she could, on milk, pudding, rice, milk-pottage, potatoes, turnips, &c. with as little animal food as possible, and that of the lightest kind, and at dinner only; and to abstain from all fermented liquors, except a very little red wine mixt with water, and a little juice of seville orange or lemon, at dinner; and when thirsty, a very weak tea of red rose leaves, acidulated with juice of lemon, and sweetened to the palate. To those who cannot get asses milk, or with whose stomach it does

does not agree, artificial asses milk, or cows milk skimmed, will often prove very beneficial. I have likewise frequently seen very salutary effects from the use of snails, either boiled in new or skimmed milk, with water sufficient to answer the evaporation ; or else swallowed raw—but I shall have occasion to be more particular on this subject hereafter.

I ATTENDED another young lady, about ten years of age, in a true pulmonary consumption, who, after having been twice bled, was cured by the same medicines as the former, only with less doses, in proportion to her age.

A YOUNG MAN, servant to a stage coach-master in this place, came to me with all the symptoms of a true pulmonary consumption, in a high degree, and was much reduced. I ordered blood to be taken, and gave him a gentle purgative ; and then, the draughts with myrrh and nitre, as above ; and an oily pectoral mixture, a little acidulated, to be taken occasionally in case of cough, or difficult expectoration.

He became perfectly well, and continued so for some months ; but, having caught an accidental cold, he relapsed into his former malady.

I ordered him the same medicines as before ; but they purged him very much. Upon which, I prescribed for him

him a draught with *magnesia alba* and tincture of rhubarb, and then the following :

*R Nitri purificati scrupulos quatuor,*  
*Salis absinthii scrupulos duos cum*  
*semisse,*  
*Salis martis drachmam dimidiam,*  
*Testarum ostreorum præparatarum*  
*drachmas duas,*  
*Aquæ menthæ vulgaris simplicis*  
*uncias sex cum semisse,*  
 ——— *Cinnamomi spirituosæ un-*  
*ciam unam cum semisse,*  
*Syrupi simplicis unciam dimidiam.*  
*Misce.*

Of this he took two large spoonfuls, three times a-day, with an equal quantity of the white decoction; and having

for some time continued this, and his pectoral mixture, he quite recovered.

I WAS called to a girl in Goodman's fields, about six years old, who was very weak, faint, and emaciated. She had a burning hectic fever, with a hard and dry cough, which in the night was almost continual. She had been ill some time, and had taken many medicines, and among others, the common neutral draughts.

I was desirous of giving her the myrrh draughts ; but fearing that the child would not be persuaded to take them, I tried the following :

*Rc Nitri purificati scrupulum unum,*

*Salis absinthii grana quindecim,*

*Salis*

*Salis martis grana sex,*

*Aquæ puræ coctæ uncias duas cum  
semisse,*

— *nucis moschatæ drachmam  
unam cum semisse,*

*Syrupi pectoralis unciam dimidiam.*

*Misce pro quatuor haustibus, quorum  
capiat ægrota unum ter die.*

At bed-time, she took a draught with five grains of nitre, fifteen grains of sperma ceti, and twenty drops of pægoric elixir, with some syrup: and for her cough, an oily, pectoral mixture, made agreeably acid with syrup of lemons. In three days, her fever and cough were greatly abated. She continued these medicines a few days longer, then went into the coun-

try, drank asses milk, and became free from all disease.

The two following recent cases, of the different kinds of fever, are so extraordinary, with regard both to the violence of the symptoms; and the speediness of the cure, that I was, for that reason, particularly careful to take a minute and accurate account from the mother of the boy in one case, and from the man himself in the other; who both came to me very soon after their recovery.

A JOURNEYMAN hat-maker, of this place, caught an ague about the 18th of last April, by lying upon the ground. He took for it some  
bark;



bark ; which having purged him, he left it off ; and the ague returned every other day for six weeks. He then took several quack medicines ; after which the disease returned every day, and the duration of each successive paroxysm for some time increased ; infomuch that for three weeks before he came to me, he was free from the fever only three hours in the four and twenty, which was from about six in the evening till nine. The cold fit generally continued about an hour. Every night he had such profuse sweats, that when he waked, towards morning, he was obliged to change his linen. He had lost all appetite ; and was so weak, faint, and emaciated, that he could scarce walk.

He

He applied to me on Sunday, the 14th of July, 1776, and I ordered him a mixture for nine doses, which contained, besides the waters and syrup, two drachms and fifteen grains of myrrh, three scruples and a half of salt of wormwood, and half a drachm of salt of steel—one dose to be taken three times a-day. Having taken the first dose, he had a stronger rigor than ordinary; but the next day, he had much less fever, and from that time continued mending; so that by the time he had taken the nine doses, his fever was quite subdued; and when he came to me the next Sunday, (the 21st) he had entirely recovered his appetite and spirits, and as much of his strength as could be expected. However, by way  
of

of precaution, I ordered him to repeat the mixture, and take it only twice a-day ; which perfectly restored him.

There is no reason to doubt, but that the bark, properly given, would have cured this man in the beginning. But when he applied to me, his fever was running into a continual form ; and the bark, however assisted, would not then, I apprehend, have succeeded ; nor perhaps any other medicine in so short a time.

THE SON of a gentleman's coachman in this place, between ten and eleven years old, and of a tender constitution, was brought to me on the 28th of last June (1776) by his mother,

mother, who gave me the following account—

“ That the boy had been ill a little  
 “ more than a fortnight—was first  
 “ taken with a cold shivering, which  
 “ lasted but a little while, and re-  
 “ turned every day about two o’clock,  
 “ attended with a little cough —  
 “ That he continued in this way  
 “ near a week, when his cough be-  
 “ came very violent; and every night,  
 “ before he went to bed, a burning  
 “ fever came on, which lasted all  
 “ night, and went off towards morn-  
 “ ing, with a little moisture on his  
 “ skin—That he coughed much in  
 “ the day-time; but at night, a fit  
 “ of coughing seized him as  
 “ soon as he got to bed, or waked  
 “ him

“ him out of a short sleep ; and he  
 “ coughed so incessantly, between  
 “ two and three hours, that he had  
 “ scarce time to recover his breath  
 “ —That he had one or two more  
 “ fits of coughing before morning ;  
 “ but that they did not last so long  
 “ as the first.”

He was so weak and reduced, that  
 I did not dare to order him to be  
 bled, but gave him the following pre-  
 scription :

*Rx Aquæ alexeteriæ simplicis uncias*  
*quinque,*

——— *nucis moschatæ drachmas*  
*duas cum semisse,*

*Nitri purificati scrupulos duos,*

*Salis absinthii drachmam dimidiam,*

*Salis*

*Salis martis grana trèdecim,  
Syrupi de althæâ drachmas sex.*

*Fiat mistura, cujus capiat ægrotus  
cochlearia duo ampla, manè,  
meridie, & horâ septimâ ves-  
pertinâ.*

*Rx Olei amygdalarum dulcium unciam  
unam,*

*Gummi arabici drachmam unam  
cum semisse,*

*Aquæ puræ uncias duas cum se-  
misse,*

*—— nucis moschatæ drachmas duas,*

*Syrupi de althæâ drachmas sex,*

*—— Limonum drachmas duas.*

*Misce ; fiat emulsio, cujus capiat  
cochleare unum mediocre, ur-  
gente tussi.*

*Rx Elixiris*

℞ *Elixiris paregorici unciam dimi-*  
*diam ;*

*Cujus sumat guttas viginti vel etiam*  
*triginta, ex poculo modico in-*  
*fusi fructus limoniorum, singu-*  
*lis noctibus horâ decubitûs.*

I likewise ordered his mother to boil, first three, and then four garden snails, (taken out of their shells) in a pint of skimmed milk and half a pint of water, to three quarters of a pint, and strain and sweeten the decoction. This quantity he drank every day. And in the space of nine or ten days he was quite recovered.

I cannot help thinking, that the snails had a considerable share in this boy's speedy recovery; and that, where  
the

the stomach will bear them, they are preferable to asses milk. But the misfortune is, that they are not to be had in all seasons of the year. However, I have been informed of a method of preserving them, which, I think, is worthy of attention.

A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, whose veracity I can depend upon, many years ago told me, that he had a family medicine, which he always kept by him, and with which he had cured many persons of coughs and consumptions. It was this—

“ Take any quantity of garden  
 “ snails; and, after breaking their  
 “ shells, put them into a coarse  
 “ cheese-cloth; or a net rather  
 “ finer



“ finer than a cabbage-net, that  
“ the shells may not get through.  
“ Hang them up in a cool  
“ place, that the viscid juice may  
“ drain out. Add to this juice  
“ a quantity of fine loaf sugar  
“ powdered, and evaporate the  
“ mixture by a gentle heat to a  
“ proper consistence for making  
“ cakes or lozenges, which must  
“ be kept in a dry place. These  
“ are to be held in the mouth,  
“ to dissolve gradually ; or else  
“ mixed with milk and drunk.”

THE good effects of snails swallowed raw, were experienced, some years ago, by a lady in this neighbourhood,

hood, whom I saw accidentally on a visit.

She had a hectic fever, attended with a violent cough; and as she mentioned her having taken for it many medicines to no purpose, I advised her to try snails. She accordingly took from four to eight of them, every morning, between breakfast and dinner. And having continued the use of them for some time, together with the frequent exercise of riding, she entirely got rid of her disorder, without any other medicines.

From the above-mentioned case of the coachman's son \*, together with

\* See page 43.

those

( 51 )

those of the child in Goodman's fields †, and of the stage coach-master's servant ‡, it may seem doubtful which of the two medicines is to be preferred in the inflammatory hectic; viz. whether that with the myrrh, nitre and salt of steel; or that with the three salts, without the myrrh. But time and the experience of others must determine the matter; though it is probable, that in some cases the one may succeed, when the other would not. The latter seems likely to be an useful medicine for children, who sometimes may not, without great difficulty, be made to take the myrrh. But I should imagine, that

† See page 38.

‡ See page 36.

in adults, where the disease has been of some duration, that with the myrrh is to be preferred.

I cannot omit mentioning here, that in the inflammatory, hectic, particularly in children, very beneficial effects may, I think, be derived from the use of a warm or tepid bath. I have had two instances of this kind, one of which was so remarkable, as to seem worthy of being related.

THE DAUGHTER of a sea-captain, between six and seven years of age, had been ill several weeks; and had taken, during that time, many medicines, and asses milk, without

without effect. She had a burning hectic fever, a dry cough, (which in the night was almost continual) a quick pulse, and a very hot and dry skin ; and she was so weak and emaciated, that there seemed scarce any hopes of her recovery. On being consulted, I ordered her medicines for several days ; but finding none that relieved those alarming complaints, I advised, that in the evening she should be put into a bath, of such a degree of warmth as to feel pleasant to her ; and remain in it, only five or six minutes. She found immediate relief from it, slept well that night without an anodyne ; and next day appeared stronger, and in better spirits. The bath was repeated the next night but

one; and was then ordered to be continued every night, or every other night, as occasion should seem to require: and the time of staying in it was encreased, by degrees, to ten or twelve minutes. She took, at the same time, some medicines for her cough and fever, and became perfectly well; but it is my opinion, that her recovery was chiefly owing to the warm bath.

---

---

## A P P E N D I X.

**T**HE following case may, perhaps, seem foreign to the professed subject of this treatise; yet, as it tends to shew, that large quantities of salt of steel may be taken, without heating; and as that chalybeate has so principal a part in the prescriptions before-mentioned, it appeared to me not improper to be added.

The history of the disease has been accurately taken both from the patient himself, and his family; and I

hope the reader will excuse the unavoidable length of it.

A YOUNG GENTLEMAN in Cheapſide, in the twenty-fourth year of his age, and of a healthy conſtitution, was ſeized in February, 1773, with a giddineſs and fainting, which ended in a hot and profuſe ſweat all over him. He had no return of theſe complaints till about a month after, when, being at a play, he had a ſtrange uneaſy feeling in his legs, that gradually roſe up to his head, with a flushing heat, pain, and giddineſs, and a profuſe ſweat, which obliged him to be carried home.

On the next morning he conſulted his apothecary, and was bled (for the  
firſt



first time in his life) which bleeding seemed to cool and relieve him. He then took a vomit; and afterwards, as he was faint and low-spirited, many nervous medicines, which kept up his spirits for a while, but soon after heated him, and did not lessen his disorder. As it now returned very often, he consulted a physician, who ordered leeches, to be applied to his temples—the bark with elixir of vitriol, which he took for a considerable time, and in large quantities, and which afforded him only a temporary relief—and likewise, the use of the cold bath, which he continued for several months, but without success.

He then consulted another physician, who ordered him to be cupped;  
(which

(which operation rather weakened him) and some medicines, which having not succeeded, he directed a clyster every morning for near a fortnight, supposing his disorder to be occasioned by worms; but he still received no benefit.

He tried valerian tea, also the tincture of valerian, and many other medicines, upon the recommendation of several different persons; one, in particular, composed of camphor and valerian, seemed, he said, to set him on fire, and greatly increased his complaints. He took, besides, many medicines from quacks, but all without any good effect.

His usual symptoms were, a flushing heat in his face, a faintness and  
dejection

dejection of spirits, and a violent pain in his head; which were often accompanied with giddiness, and sometimes with sweats. They generally held him from one to two hours; and for the space of two years, he was scarce a single day free from a return of them.

Any exercise that heated or fatigued him, and even the sitting in a hot room, would at any time bring on his disorder. If he was in a room with much company, he became confused and restless, and was obliged to go into the air; and if two or three persons came in together upon business, he was hurried, and forced to retire. If he walked abroad in the streets,

streets, he found himself giddy; and did not dare to go out alone, for fear of falling—so that he was rendered incapable of following his business.

His pulse was mostly low; his urine pale, but not large in quantity; his appetite and sleep held good, during the whole time. He was always worse in summer, and better in winter, particularly in frosty weather.

In the beginning of March 1776, he came to reside near this place, in hopes that living in the country would remove his complaints; but, in a short time, they returned as violent as ever, and he then  
applied

applied to me as a friend. I advised him to take a desert-spoonful of the tincture of foot in a glass of water, two or three times a-day; but finding that this heated him, and increased his disorder, I had a mind to try the salt of steel, and on March the 23d prescribed for him the following electary :

℞ *Salis martis scrupulos quatuor,*  
*Conservæ corticum aurantiorum*  
*unciam unam.*

*Misce; fiat electarium, cujus sumat*  
*ægrotus molem nucis moschatæ*  
*bis vel ter die, & superbibat*  
*cyathum liquoris cujuslibet*  
*grati.*

He

He was ordered to finish this in four days: it was repeated on the 28th of March, and the 1st of April; so that he took, in twelve days, half an ounce of salt of steel. He found immediate relief from it, and became free from his complaints. But I desired him to continue the medicine a little longer; and as he began to nauseate the electary, I ordered him, on April the 13th, the following mixture, in which the myrrh was intended merely as a bitter, which might make the salt sit easier on his stomach.

*R Myrrhæ scrupulos duos,*

*Solve in*

*Aquæ alexeteriæ simplicis unciis  
septem;*

*Dein*

*Dein adde*

*Salis martis drachmas duas,*

*Syrupi simplicis unciam dimidiam.*

*Fiat mixtura, cujus capiat coch-  
leare amplum unum bis vel ter  
die è cyatho aquæ puræ.*

This mixture was repeated on the eighth of May. He got well, and continues so.

Here was an uncommon and very afflicting disorder, of above three years standing, attended always with great heat and pain, and which, after having eluded the power of every medicine that had been applied for its relief, was removed, in a short time,

time, by the sole use of salt of steel.—I shall make no further comment on the case; but leave it to the reflection of the reader.





A

## METHOD OF TREATING

SEVERAL KINDS OF

## INTERNAL HEMORRHAGES.

**I**N several kinds of internal hemorrhages I have found, from repeated experience, *cold-drawn linseed oil*, with tincture of rhubarb sufficient to keep the body gently open, to be an excellent remedy. And as I know not any author, who has particularly recommended it in such cases, I shall take the liberty to lay before

F

the

the reader several instances of it's having proved successful; and in most of them, after other medicines had been tried without effect.

The principal cases, in which I have used it, are the hemorrhages of the stomach and intestines, and of the urinary passages; where I have never known it to fail, if there was not some fatal lesion of parts, not to be corrected by medicine. It is, indeed, rather unpleasant to the taste; yet I have very rarely found it rejected by the stomach.

I have generally begun with bleeding in the arm, and giving a purging mixture of manna, Glauber's salt, and a little tincture of rhubarb, to cleanse well the first passages; and an  
anodyne,

anodyne, with tincture of roses, at night. I have then ordered the linseed oil, and tincture of rhubarb; and if the hemorrhage has been considerable, I have given also tincture of roses with gum arabic—as the cases will more fully shew.

In hemorrhages of the stomach and intestines, my practice has been to add bole; and to give the oil without the mucilage of gum arabic, from an opinion that the bare oil coming in contact with the ruptured vessel, would be more efficacious; but in other cases, the addition of gum arabic, or yolk of egg, tends to make the medicine less unpleasant; and it was ordered, on that account, in the second of the following cases.

In the\* *hæmoptysis*, I have twice used it, and with success. But as one of the cases was not considerable, and as in the other this oil was mixed with

\* After I had drawn up this paper, I found in Allen's Synopsis, under the article, *Hæmoptysis*, a quotation from Etmuller, which concludes with the following sentence—"Hedera  
 " terrestris est plane mirabilis, item succus ur-  
 " ticæ, catechu, trochisci de carabe. Oleum  
 " lini cochleatim sumptum mira præstat: ol.  
 " vitriol. succ. cydon. decoct. hord. cum passul.  
 " min."

So vague and indeterminate a mention of the linseed-oil, and intermixed in such a manner with a variety of other remedies, can scarcely be considered as a contradiction to what I have said above; or, at least, it is far from precluding a more particular direction for its use, together with an account of its success, in a number of different cases.

many

many other medicines, I cannot form a certain judgment of it's effects in this kind of hemorrhage. However, I should think, that small doses of it given frequently—with a bolus, of compound powder of gum tragacanth, and two or three grains of salt of steel, twice a-day—washed down with a large draught of tincture of roses—and assisted by proper evacuations—would be no unlikely method to succeed in the treatment of this disease.

I have been cautious of giving the bark in the *hæmoptysis*, though it may, perhaps, stop the bleeding sooner than any other medicine. For I have observed, that where the bark has been given in a

considerable degree of this disease, it has generally ended in a fatal *phthisis*. And I am persuaded, that a course of cooling medicines, with small and frequently-repeated bleedings, will, in time, be equally effectual with the bark, without being subject to its inconveniences.

### C A S E I.

**A**N OLD GENTLEMAN applied to me, who had, for some years, voided blood by stool; and, sometimes, in large quantities. I ordered him to be bled; and prescribed a purgative, with manna, Glauber's salt, and the spirituous tincture of rhubarb; and then the following draught:

R *Olei*

*Rx Olei lini recenter & sine igne ex-*  
*pressi drachmas sex,*  
*Tincturæ rhabarbari vinosæ drach-*  
*mas duas cum semisse,*  
*Syrupi ex althæâ drachmas duas,*  
*Aquæ puræ unciam unam.*  
*Misce; fiat haustus, manè, & horâ*  
*decubitûs sumendus.*

He took, besides, a bolus, with the  
 compound powder of gum tragacanth,  
 and French bole, twice a-day; and  
 washed it down with a draught of the  
 following mixture:

*Rx Tincturæ rosarum uncias quatuor-*  
*decim, quâ solve*  
*Gummi arabici drachmas sex,*

*Tincturæ stypticæ unciam unam cum  
semisse. Misce.*

He soon got quite well, and continues so; yet, to prevent a return of his complaint, I ordered him an opening oily mixture, to be taken whenever he should be costive.

## C A S E II.

THE DAUGHTER of a gentleman at Stratford, between four and five years old, had, for nine months, voided blood in her stools, attended with much griping and tenesmus. She had also a small *prolapsus ani*,  
but



but which would go up on her lying down a little while. She was sometimes too much bound; at other times, too loose.

I ordered her a gentle purgative with *magnesia alba*, manna, and the vinous tincture of rhubarb; and afterwards, the following mixture:

℞ *Olei lini sine igne expressi,*

*Tincturæ rhabarbari vinosæ singu-  
lorum unciam unam,*

*Boli gallicæ drachmam unam cum  
semisse,*

*Syrupi ex althæâ drachmas sex,*

*Aquæ puræ uncias duas cum se-  
misse,*

*Gummi arabici pulveris drachmam  
unam.*

*Fiat*

*Fiat mistura ; cujus capiat ægrota  
 cochleare majus unum manè,  
 horâ quintâ post meridiem, &  
 horâ decubitûs.*

In a few days, she intirely ceased voiding blood ; and having continued the medicines a little while longer, she became perfectly well.

### C A S E    I I I.

**A** GENTLEWOMAN in White-chapel, about fifty-four years old, who had long ceased to menstruate, voided, several times in a day, a quantity of pure blood in her stools, and with very great pain ;  
 which

which seized her an hour or two before, and held about three hours, after each motion. It was remarkable, that during the pain, she felt the sensation of a great weight and pressure upon the *anus*; but when the pain had ceased, she felt no swelling, nor any tenderness on pressing upon the part. She had been eight or ten days in this state.

I ordered her to be bled, and prescribed the following draughts :

*R Olei lini sine igne expressi unciam  
dimidiam,*

*Tincturæ rhubarbari vinosi drach-  
mas tres,*

*Aquæ puræ drachmas decem,*

*Syrupi ex althæâ drachmam unam,*

*Boli*

*Boli gallicæ drachmam dimidiam.*

*Misce ; fiat haustus, statim post  
venæsectionem sumendus, &  
quartis horis repetendus, donec  
alvus bis vel ter responderit.*

She had three stools ; of which,  
the two first were intirely of blood.  
Going to rest, she took a draught  
with sperma ceti and French bole,  
half a drachm each, and twenty-five  
drops of the thebaic tincture ; and  
next day the following.

*R. Olei lini sine igne expressi drachmas  
sex,*

*Tincturæ rhabarbari vinosæ unciam  
dimidiam,*

*Aquæ puræ unciam unam,*

*Syrupi*

*Syrupi ex althææ drachmam unam,*

*Boli gallicæ drachmam dimidiam.*

*Misce ; fiat haustus, manè, horâ*

*quintâ pomeridianâ, & horâ de-*

*cubitûs sumendus. Adde haustui*

*nocturno, tincturæ thebaicæ*

*guttas viginti quinque.*

She was much relieved ; but the pain returned, though less violent, and with very little blood. To the oily draught, which she took at night, were added ten drops more of the thebaic tincture. She continued the use of these medicines, lessening the quantity of the thebaic tincture by degrees ; and in six or seven days was intirely freed from so excruciating a disease.

This

This disease may probably seem to have been only internal piles ; yet if it were, an instance of so speedy a cure of them should seem not unworthy to be here mentioned ; for she continued well, and had no return. But I think the following case tends to evince the contrary.

It is observable, that this patient's stomach bore very large quantities of oil. This probably was the reason of her speedy recovery.

#### C A S E IV.

A YOUNG WOMAN, about twenty years of age, who came out of the country, had, for near a year,

year, voided large quantities of blood by stool, with much pain, and a sensation of weight and pressure like a ball (as she expressed it) upon the *anus*. It was first brought on her, by an over-exertion of her strength, in lifting a weight. She had taken many medicines during that time without effect; was very weak, pale, and emaciated. She had also a hectic fever, with great thirst, particularly in the night; and she told me, she had sometimes voided half a pint of pure blood at a time.

I ordered her, first to lose six ounces of blood. On the next morning I prescribed a purging mixture with manna, Glauber's salt, and tincture of rhubarb; and then,

R *Olei*

*Rx Olei lini sine igne expressi drachmas tres,*

*Tincturæ rhabarbari vinosæ drachmas duas,*

*Aquæ puræ unciam unam cum semisse;*

*Boli gallicæ drachmam dimidiam;*

*Syrupi ex althæâ drachmam unam.*

*Misce ; fiat haustus ter die sumendus.*

I advised her to drink freely, when thirsty, of a weak tea of dried red roses, acidulated with lemon juice.

She pursued this method eight or ten days, during which, the flux was much lessened ; but her hectic fever increased considerably. Bleeding  
ing



ing therefore was repeated, and draughts given twice a-day, with two ounces of tincture of roses, and a drachm and a half of tincture of bark ; and the oily draughts were continued twice a-day besides, at intermediate times.

The flux was now intirely stopt ; but, the hectic fever still continuing, bleeding was repeated in a less quantity ; and, as the draughts, with the tincture of the bark, did not answer the desired end, I directed the following, which in a few days removed the fever.

*R Myrrhæ grana sedecim,*

*Solve in*

*Aquæ puræ uncia unâ cum semisse,*

G

*Aquæ*

*Aquæ nucis moschatæ drachmis  
duabus;*

*Dein adde*

*Salis absinthii grana octo,*

*—— martis grana quatuor,*

*Syrupi simplicis drachmam dimi-  
diam.*

*Misce; fiat haustus bis vel ter die  
sumendus.*

She continued pale and faint, from the impoverished state of her blood; to amend which I ordered her to take twice a-day, in a glass of wine and water, five and twenty drops of steel wine, increasing them gradually to sixty; and thus her cure was completed.

## C A S E . V.

A WIDOW in Leadenhall street, about 56 years of age, had for some time voided, by urine, large quantities of blood, and had often passed great clots, but with scarce any pain or fever. She had taken many medicines without success.

I ordered her to lose eight or ten ounces of blood; then gave her the usual purging mixture, and a draught at night, with tincture of roses, syrup of the white poppy, and a little spirituous water; and next day the following mixture:

℞ Olei lini sine igne expressi uncias  
duas cum semisse,

G 2

Gummi

*Gummi arabici drachmam unam  
cum semisse,*

*Soluti in*

*Aquæ puræ unciiis tribus cum se-  
misse,*

*Tincturæ rhabarbari vinosæ un-  
ciam unam cum semisse,*

*Syrupi ex althæâ unciam dimidiam.*

*Fiat mistura, cujus capiat ægrota  
cochlearia majora tria ter  
die.*

After she had taken two of these mixtures, she was quite well.

This medicine proved equally successful in the cure of an hæmorrhage from the kidneys ; which was, indeed, the very first case, in which I made  
use

use of it. But as this happened many years ago, and as I did not set down the particulars, I can only mention the bare fact.

## C A S E VI.

**A** GENTLEWOMAN in the Minorities, between fifty and sixty years of age, having exerted too great a force in lifting a weight, was immediately seized with a violent pain in her back; and when she went to stool, voided large quantities of blood. This had continued fourteen days. When she applied to me, she was exceedingly weak and low.

I or-

I ordered her to be bled, and to take a gentle purgative ; and then, the same oily mixture, as in the foregoing case ; only omitting the gum arabic, and adding, in its stead, two drachms of French bole. By these means she very soon recovered her health.

## C A S E VII.

**P**ASSING through a distant village,

I was desired to visit a poor woman, who was about six months advanced in pregnancy. She had vomited large quantities of blood for some time, which had rendered her very weak and faint ; and she had taken the  
bark,

bark, and elixir of vitriol, without the desired effect.

Left any coagulated blood should be lodged in the stomach or intestines, I ordered a gentle purgative of rhubarb and cream of tartar, and then the usual oily mixture, but with only two ounces of linseed oil, an ounce of the spirituous tincture of rhubarb, and two drachms of French bole; two spoonfuls to be taken three or four times a-day, and particularly, soon after every vomiting. She grew better daily, and in a fortnight was perfectly well, and was delivered at her full time. I saw her but once; otherwise I should have ordered her to take, besides, red-rose tea sharpened with  
juice

juice of lemon, with a view to hasten the cure.

Since I am upon the subject of *hemorrhages*, I cannot omit this opportunity of recommending an external application, in that of the nose; which has been applied, in some of the worst cases of that kind, with remarkable success. It is as follows—

Rx *Boli armenæ,*

*Aluminis rupei singulorum unciam  
dimidiam,*

*Sanguinis draconis drachmas duas,*

*Colcothar vitrioli unciam unam.*

*Misce; fiat pulvis tenuis.*

A sufficient quantity of this is to be mixed with some white of an egg,  
and



and applied. But care should be taken to cleanse the part from any coagulated blood; and the doffil, directed to the upper part of the nostril, towards its opening into the throat; as it is from that part that the hemorrhage almost always proceeds.

I apprehend that the superior excellence of this application, besides what is derived from the efficacy of the powder, may in part be owing to its consistence; by this means not being liable to be washed off by the oozing blood, (which is the case of liquid styptics) and to its smoothness, by means of which it passes easily and directly to the ruptured vessel, which powders, upon lint, cannot do.

---

---

## P O S T S C R I P T.

**A**N ingenious surgeon of this place, to whom I had shewn the foregoing cases, called lately to acquaint me with a trial which he had just made of the remedy here recommended, and favoured me with the following history.

“ On Friday, August the 9th, 1776,  
“ I was called to a butcher, forty  
“ years of age, of a healthy and robust constitution; who had been  
“ seized on the preceding day with a  
“ discharge

“ discharge of blood by stool. It came  
 “ from him, he said, continually,  
 “ and in large clots. Before this  
 “ evacuation of blood, he had com-  
 “ plained, for a day or two, of a  
 “ dull, heavy, aching pain in his  
 “ back and loins; but he told me,  
 “ he had never been subject to the  
 “ piles.

“ I sent him the following mix-  
 “ ture :

“ *Rx Olei lini sine igne expressi unciam*

“ *unam cum semisse,*

“ *Tincturæ rhabarbari vinosæ,*

“ *Syrupi ex althæâ singulorum*

“ *drachmas sex,*

“ *Boli armenæ præparatæ drach-*

“ *mam unam,*

*Aquæ*

“ *Aquæ menthæ vulgaris simplicis*

“ *uncias quinque.*

“ *Misce; capiat ægrotus cochlearia*

“ *majora tria quartâ quâque*

“ *horâ.*

“ Before he had taken the whole  
“ of this mixture, the discharge of  
“ blood was abated; and on the fol-  
“ lowing day he found himself well.”

F I N I S.











14.0

